

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 124390 TOSEC 130078

71

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SAM-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:FZBROWN:MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS: FREDERICK Z. BROWN

S/S - RWOODS

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

S, S/AM, M ONLY

----- 119450

O 202351Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 124390 TOSEC 130078

FOR FUNSETH FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ABC TV INTERVIEW

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECOND HALF OF ABC-TV MEG OSMER
INTERVIEW TO BE BROADCAST FRIDAY, MAY 21, 7:30-8:00 A.M.

MS. OSMER: THERE IS A LOT OF PRESSURE EVEN TODAY IN THE
PRESS AGAIN ABOUT YOU, MR. SECRETARY, AND ABOUT RESIGNING
AND WHETHER YOU ARE A PLUS OR A MINUS IN THE ADMINISTRATION.
HOW ARE YOU REACTING TO THESE INCREASES IN PRESSURE?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THESE SPECULATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING
ON FOR QUITE AWHILE AND IN AN ELECTION YEAR IT IS IN-
EVITABLE THAT SOMEBODY WHO HAS BEEN AROUND FOR NEARLY EIGHT
YEARS ATTRACTS A FAIR AMOUNT OF ATTENTION.

MS. OSMER: ARE YOU SAYING YOU ARE ATTRIBUTING ALL THIS
TO THE FACT THAT IT IS AN ELECTION YEAR?

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 124390 TOSEC 130078

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I THINK MOST OF IT IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT IS AN ELECTION YEAR. BECAUSE ON THE ISSUES THE DISAGREEMENT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ALL THAT FUNDAMENTAL. AND THE RANGE OF POSSIBLE DECISIONS IS SOMEWHAT LIMITED AND I AM SURE THAT ONCE THE PRIMARIES ARE OVER, CERTAINLY ONCE THE ELECTION IS OVER, WHAT SEEMS NOW SO VITAL IS GOING TO BE SEEN IN MUCH BETTER PERSPECTIVE AND THE PASSIONS WILL DIE DOWN.

MS. OSMER: WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, MR. SECRETARY, IS THAT YOU CAN'T REALLY GO ANYWHERE IN AN ELECTION YEAR UNTIL THE PRIMARIES AND THE NOMINATING PROCESS IS OVER.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I AM SAYING THAT AS SECRETARY OF STATE I HAVE TO RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT WHAT I THINK IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND I CAN'T LOOK AT WHAT PRIMARIES ARE GOING ON EVERY WEEK IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT IS POLITICALLY DESIRABLE AND I CAN'T BEND WITH EVERY WIND THAT BLOWS IN AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

MS. OSMER: BUT YOU HAVE IN THE PAST DEFERRED FROM BEING THAT INVOLVED ON THE POLITICAL SIDE AND THIS YEAR YOU HAVE BEEN BARNSTORMING, AS SOME PEOPLE, I BELIEVE, CALL IT.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THAT ISN'T TRUE. I STARTED GIVING SPEECHES AROUND THE COUNTRY AT THE FREQUENCY OF ABOUT ONE EVERY THREE WEEKS STARTING DECEMBER 1974. I HAVE KEPT TO EXACTLY THAT SCHEDULE. I HAVE GIVEN ABOUT ONE SPEECH EVERY THREE WEEKS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

AS FOREIGN POLICY HAS BECOME MORE POLITICIZED MORE ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO THESE TRIPS BUT THE TRIPS THEMSELVES HAVE FOLLOWED A PATTERN THAT WAS ESTABLISHED EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO AND WHICH I AM CARRYING OUT IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN OUR FOREIGN POLICY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND TO LEARN FROM THEM WHAT THEY THINK. BUT THE SPEECHES THEMSELVES ARE NOT GEARED IN ANY SENSE TO THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. THEY EXPLAIN SOME ASPECT OF FOREIGN POLICY --

MS. OSMER: YOU HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THAT YOU THOUGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 124390 TOSEC 130078

IF THERE WAS ANY REAL DANGER TO AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IT WOULD COME FROM THE RIGHT AND AT THIS TIME WE ARE MOVING MORE AND MORE TO THE RIGHT POLITICALLY IN TERMS OF THE CANDIDACY OF RONALD REAGAN AND EVEN THE REACTIONS OF PRESIDENT FORD, AND THAT HAS CERTAINLY HAD SOME REPERCUSSIONS ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I HAVE SAID YOU CANNOT ATTACK THE

BASIC VALUES OF A SOCIETY LIKE THAT OF THE UNITED STATES, TELL THEM THAT THEY ARE RUN BY CRIMINALS, THAT EVERY ENTERPRISE THEY UNDERTAKE IS BOUND TO FAIL, THAT THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARE CORRUPT, THAT CHILDREN ARE IN REBELLION, WITHOUT HAVING A REACTION IN WHICH PEOPLE SAY, "ENOUGH OF THIS, WE WANT TO STAND FOR SOMETHING IN THIS

WORLD AND WE WANT TO HAVE A MORE AFFIRMATIVE APPROACH." THAT SEEMS TO ME TO BE THE DOMINANT MOOD OF 1976. THEY ARE TIRED OF ALL THIS SELF-FLAGELLATION AND THIS IS WHY THE CANDIDATES WHO EITHER HAVE SIMPLE SOLUTIONS OR WHO SIMPLY AFFIRM SIMPLE VALUES ARE HAVING A GREAT APPEAL. BUT I THINK THIS TOO WILL BE SEEN IN ITS RIGHT PERSPECTIVE IN TIME AND I THINK IT IS IN SOME WAYS A HEALTHY CORRECTIVE TO WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON. AS LONG AS WE DON'T FORGET THAT THE PROBLEMS ARE COMPLICATED AND DON'T HAVE SIMPLE SOLUTIONS AND THAT WE MUST BE WILLING TO STICK WITH THEM.

MS. OSMER: IF YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE, EITHER IN THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POLICY OR FOR THE PRESIDENT, WOULD YOU RESIGN, NOW?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: IF I THOUGHT IT MADE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE FUTURE FOREIGN POLICY, CERTAINLY. AS FAR AS THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED, I THINK IT IS NOT FOR ME TO MAKE THE POLITICAL DECISIONS. WE ARE SIX MONTHS BEFORE AN ELECTION. I DON'T THINK ONE SHOULD MOVE AROUND POSITIONS JUST WITH THE EBB AND FLOW OF THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGN. SOMEBODY HAS TO CONDUCT A POLICY WHICH IS SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED. SOMEBODY NEW WOULD HAVE TO TAKE IT OVER. THIS HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. AS FAR AS MY DECISION IS CONCERNED, I TOLD THE PRESIDENT IN DECEMBER THAT I THOUGHT ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 124390 TOSEC 130078

WHOLE IT WAS BEST TO MAKE A CHANGE TO PREVENT THE POLITICIZATION OF THE OFFICE. HE DISAGREED. SINCE HE DISAGREED, SINCE I FELT HE HAD TO MAKE THAT DECISION, I AGREED TO STAY. BUT IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF MY HOLDING ON TO A JOB. IT IS A QUESTION OF WHAT SERVES THE COUNTRY IN A TURBULENT PERIOD IN WHICH WE HAVE CRISES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CRISES IN AFRICA IN WHICH SOMEBODY WILL HAVE TO MANAGE THEM IF THEY BLOW UP, AND THAT IS FROM THE FOREIGN POLICY POINT OF VIEW. FROM THE POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW I AM READY TO LEAVE AT ANY MOMENT, IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

MS. OSMER: IF YOU FELT YOU NO LONGER HAD THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT, YOU WOULD --

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THERE WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. THEN IT WOULD BE MY DECISION. BUT THAT HASN'T ARISEN.

MS. OSMER: IS THERE ANYTHING THAT WOULD KEEP YOU ON IF PRESIDENT FORD IS ELECTED FOR ANOTHER TERM?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY THAT I WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE. I HAVE ALSO FELT IT WAS DISCOURTEOUS TO SAY AHEAD OF TIME THAT, NOT KNOWING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD NOT GIVE THE PRESIDENT A CHANCE TO TALK TO ME, BUT MY PREDISPOSITION IS TO BELIEVE THAT AFTER EIGHT YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE I SHOULD NOW PASS ON THIS POSITION TO SOMEBODY ELSE.

ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, TEXT, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE124390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FZBROWN:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760196-0470
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760531/aaaabakg.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABC TV INTERVIEW FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECOND HALF OF ABC-TV MEG OSMER
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (OSMER, MEG)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006